

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) Process for the production of granules or pellets containing filamentous fungi comprising the steps of:

- selecting and growing filamentous fungi in a suitable culture medium for a predetermined amount of time,
- mixing said culture medium, after said predetermined time, with a gelling agent and at least one carrier, so as to obtain a mixture,
- subjecting said mixture to gelling through drop by drop contact, with a solution containing a calcium salt thus obtaining gelled pellets or granules containing said filamentous fungi,
- drying said gelled pellets or granules to a moisture content of 13-18%.

2. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein said gelling step is carried out by adding said mixture, drop by drop, into said solution containing a calcium salt.

3. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein said culture medium for filamentous fungi comprises at least one carbon source chosen among the group consisting of molasses, malt extract and sucrose and at least one organic nitrogen source chosen between yeast extract and "corn steep liquor".

4. (Original) Process according to claim 3, wherein said at least one carbon source constitutes between 70 and 85% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium and said at least one organic nitrogen source constitutes between 15 and 30% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium.

5. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein said culture medium further comprises a mineral nitrogen source.

6. (Original) Process according to claim 4, wherein said mineral nitrogen source is contained in an amount not greater than 10% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium and preferably between 5 and 8% by weight.

7. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the gelling agent consists of a solution containing between 1 and 2% by weight of sodium alginate.

8. (Original) Process according to claim 7, wherein said sodium alginate solution is added to the culture medium of the filamentous fungus preferably according to a culture medium/alginate solution volume ratio of between 40:60 and 60:40.

9. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein said carriers are chosen from the group comprising diatom earth, preferably Celaton FPM 0.08, flours, preferably cornflour, and sugars.

10. (Original) Process according to claim 9, wherein said filamentous fungi are of *Arthrobotrys conoides* Dreschsler and said carriers comprise at least cornflour.

11. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein the carriers are added to the sodium alginate solution in percentages ranging between 6% and 22% by weight of the weight of the solution.

12. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the solution containing a calcium salt is preferably an aqueous calcium chloride or calcium gluconate solution having a concentration of 0.2-0.3 M.

13. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the dried granules or pellets have an average diameter of between 1 and 3 mm.